AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1115. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1932 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 22, NO. 24.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

In great attempts it is glorious even to fail.—Longinus.

Hoover's Error

In his speech accepting the Republican nomination for the office of President of the United States, President Hoover referred to the "unprecedented measures" taken by him to meet the conditions created by the stock market crash of 1929, in harmony with the "eternal principles of our Nation." The President said:

> **"It was in accordance with these principles that in the first stage of the depression I called the leaders of business and of labor and agriculture to meet with me and induced them, by their own initiative, to organize against panic with all its devastating destruction; to uphold wages until the cost of living was adjusted; to spread existing employment through shortened hours; and to advance construction work, public and private, against future need."**

In November, 1929, the conference to which the President refers was held at the White House. At the conclusion of the Conference the President issued the following statement to the press:

> **"The President was authorized by the employers who were present at this morning's conference to state on their individual behalf that they will not initiate any movement for wage reduction, and it was their strong recommendation that this attitude should be pursued by the country as a whole. They considered that a reduction in human considerations involved, the consuming power of the country will thereby be maintained.**
>
> **"The President was also authorized by the representatives of Labor to state that in their individual views and that as their strong recommendation to the country as a whole that no movements beyond those already in negotiation should be initiated for increase of wages and that every cooperation should be given by Labor to industry in the handling of its problems. The purpose of these declarations is to give assurance that conflicts should not occur during the present situation which will affect the continuity of work and thus to maintain stability of employment."**

There is nothing in this 1929 agreement indicating that the maintenance of wages was to be predicated on the cost of living. In the statement made at the time the President said the employers stated **"that they will not initiate any movement for wage reduction, and it was their strong recommendation that this attitude be pursued by the country as a whole."**

In the opinion of representatives of organized labor who attended the conference, the agreement not to reduce wages was positive and was not coupled with any proviso about holding off wage reductions until living costs were reduced.

The employers agreed that they would **"not initiate any movement for wage reduction."** They made no commitment to any qualification. Had it contained such a qualification it is absolutely sure that organized labor would not have agreed to refrain from initiating wage increase movements.

Scrapping Machinery to Make Jobs

Here and there contractors on public works are opposing the limitations on the use of labor-displacing machinery decreed by the officials of certain States and local political jurisdictions for the purpose of providing more work for the jobless.

In Wisconsin the Road Building Contractors Association recently established the policy of having the maximum amount of labor possible on public works performed by hand rather than machines. The Association, according to the Constructor, the official organ of the Associated General Contractors of America, is to carry on "an educational campaign to bring people to a realization of the costly and wasteful method entailed by the hand labor method on highway work."

The motivating influence underlying the Association's opposition to hand labor in the place of machinery in road construction is the desire to protect which manufacturers of road building machinery suffer when hand labor takes the place of machines.

Of course hand labor is wasteful and costly from the strict viewpoint of money spent per unit of construction. Of course the manufacturers of road building machinery do suffer financially when hand labor is substituted for their output.

But because of the wholesale introduction of labor-displacing machinery, and the general refusal of employers to reduce the length of the workday to maintain jobs for all the workers, millions of persons have been thrown into the army of the unemployed, with no hope of employment in private industry in sight. When a thing like this occurs, ordinary humanity dictates that the Federal, State, and municipal Governments, responsible for the social welfare, must take whatever methods are available to put men to work for the purpose of prevent this suffering. An effective method for doing this is to scrap machinery and keep on scrapping it until every unemployed worker has a job.

Let it be repeated that the introduction of labor-saving machinery is not progress when the labor "saved" by the employers is tossed into the unemployed army and the financial benefits of the "saving" are enjoyed by those who own and control industry.

Society does not own or control private industry. But by limiting the use of machines on public contracts, society can mitigate the antisocial results of the employers who refuse to recognize the validity of shorter hours.

The executive council of the American Federation of Labor, at its recent summer session, expressed with clarity organized labor's attitude on the question of machinery in industry.

"Obviously," the council said, "industry as now mechanized cannot supply work for more than 50,000,000 working men and women in the United States six days per week and long hours per day. The Nation must either give up machinery or drive up the long work week and the long work day."

Constructing public works by hand labor instead of by machines is wasteful from the point of view of mere monetary costs. But it is not one-hundredth part as wasteful as the policy of reducing millions of workers and their families to beggary by the use of machines.

Society must consider human values in regard to the unemployment problem imposed on us by unrestricted employers. If they persist in imposing unlimited amounts of labor-displacing machinery on American labor and refuse adequately to shorten the hours of work per week and work day, then society has the moral responsibility to protect the defenseless workers by enlarging the opportunities for employment in publicly-controlled undertakings.

This is what the Wisconsin Unemployment Commission and a number of State highway commissions are doing when they scrap machinery, operated by few workers, and substitute hand labor with many workers.

Nonpartisan Political Policy Wins

The sweeping victories won by Mrs. Hattie W. Caraway of Missouri and Senator Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky in the Democratic primaries of those two States to nominate candidates for election to the United States Senate is a tribute to the effectiveness of the nonpartisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor.

The A. F. of L. supported both Senator Caraway and Senator Barkley and urged organized labor in each State to use every effort to secure their renomination.

The American Federation of Labor did not ask whether Senator Caraway was a Republican or a Democrat. The A. F. of L. asked whether Senator Barkley was a Republican or a Democrat. The sole question asked was, What was the record of each of them in the United States Senate relative to measures which organized labor regarded as vital to the interests of the masses? The answer to these records were favorable.

With the record of Senator Caraway before him, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, sent a letter to organized labor of Arkansas urging the support of her in the primary. In that letter he said:

> **"The American Federation of Labor unhesitatingly endorses the election of Mrs. Hattie Caraway. During the short time she has been a member of the Senate she has proved herself to be steadfast in her support of remedial legislation.**
>
> **"Her experience with national and international legislation has made it possible for her to vote intelligently on all matters pertaining to labor and the people.**
>
> **"Mrs. Caraway was one of the strongest supporters of the Norris-LaGuardia anti-injunction law.**
>
> **"When an effort was made to incorporate the sales tax in the revenue bills sent out by Federal Judges, she fought for the well-to-do to bear the burden of those least able to bear it, but she used her influence to secure other votes against the proposal."**

On the question of Senator Barkley's candidacy, Mr. Green also made a report to organized labor of Kentucky, in which he said:

> **"During his term in the United States Senate he has been of incalculable benefit to labor and the people. Every measure in which the American Federation of Labor was interested he has supported wholeheartedly.**
>
> **"He was instrumental in bringing to the attention of the Senate the injunctions issued by Federal Judges, and he fought for the anti-injunction bill when it was up for action. He favored all increases in wages, shortening of the work day and work week, and restriction of immigration."**

On the basis of this record, organized labor of Kentucky was urged to support Senator Barkley.

The A. F. of L. congratulates Senator Caraway and Senator Barkley on their sweeping victories in the primaries. It feels sure that the voters on election day will confirm the primary vote.

California Convicts Wage Rate Violator

The California State Division of Labor Statistics and Law Enforcement is to be congratulated on the vigor with which it enforces the eight-hour law and the prevailing wage rate law.

Complaints were made against J. E. Branagh, the general contractor handling the construction of the Veterans' Memorial Building at Santa Monica. T. A. Rowedon, chief of the State Division of Labor Statistics and Law Enforcement, investigated the complaint. Five of Reardon's employes and former employes testified, and timebooks, pay roll books and canceled pay checks were examined.

At the conclusion of the investigation Reardon found Branagh guilty of 25 violations of the eight-hour law and 10 violations of the prevailing wage rate law. Fines totaling $1,800 were assessed against Branagh and the Santa Cruz supervisors instructed to withhold payments on the construction contract for that amount.

The eight-hour law and the prevailing wage rate law were sponsored by the organized labor movement in California. It is encouraging to see tangible evidence that the State intends to enforce them vigorously.

The President Won't Do It

The New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle is one of the most virulent advocates of wholesale wage reductions in the United States.

Its favorite theory is that wages should always be reduced as the cost of living goes down.

Now it has endeavored to enlist the services of President Hoover in the advocacy of this reactionary policy.

The cost-of-living wages theory is inherited from the slave-labor regime of production and distribution.

Under the slave-labor system the slave owner owned the slave workers, owned the means of production which the slave workers used, owned the commodities which the slave workers produced. The labor cost of slave-produced commodities was limited to what it cost to provide the slave workers with food, clothing, shelter and the other necessities included in their keep.

If the cost of the slave worker's keep increased, there was a smaller amount of surplus wealth for the slave owner to appropriate. If the cost of the slave worker's keep decreased, there was a larger amount of surplus wealth for the slave owner to appropriate. All the slave worker received for his labor in the process of wealth production and distribution was a living.

When the wage-labor system was substituted for the slave-labor system, employers took over from slavery the principle of getting the workers' labor for what it cost to keep them. They attempted everywhere to limit wages to the amount which the workers required to buy their living. If the cost of living went down, wages should go down, and, except where trade unions interposed their strength, the employers put wages down. When the cost of living went up, however, the same employers never raised wages until trade unions compelled them to.

Cost-of-living wages mean that every economy in the cost of production shall be appropriated by those who own and control industry. Cost-of-living wages mean that the workers who produce our wealth shall have no share in the benefits resulting from the introduction of labor-saving machinery. Cost-of-living wages mean that we shall have a permanency of unemployment in industry on one hand and an army of propertyless workers on the other.

Cost-of-living wages mean that life for the workers shall be limited to food, clothing, and shelter in the midst of a productive system capable of providing them only the necessities of life but comforts, conveniences and luxuries for all. Cost-of-living wages mean a bar to all progress for the workers.

Cost-of-living wages imposed on the American workers would be the strongest influence for the growth of Communism that the inventive genius of employer reactionaries could evolve.

The Commercial and Financial Chronicle declares that the pay of the workers would fall with a thud if President Hoover could be persuaded to come out for cost-of-living wages and thus assist reactionary employers in their attempt to reduce American wage earners on much the same status as the slave owners imposed upon their workers during the slave labor regime.

We feel sure that these wage slashers will not attach the President to their cavalcade.

They forget that the Constitution of the United States declares it was adopted "to promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity," and that the President when he assumed that office solemnly swore to uphold and defend the Constitution. It is doubtful if he could remain loyal to his oath and enter the field in support of such a reactionary policy as cost-of-living wages.

Molders Declare for Jobless Insurance

The last meeting of the executive board of the International Molders' Union of North America declared for unemployment insurance.

After pointing out that "the union had never expressed itself on this question, Robert T. McCoy, editor of the International Molders' Journal, makes this announcement of the position now taken:

> **"Following a thorough discussion of the question, the Executive Board, with the concurrence of the other officers, committed the International Molders' Union to the principle of a federal unemployment insurance by legislation, thus making it mandatory that its future delegates to a Southern Federation of Labor conventions support the principle of compulsory unemployment insurance."**

Commenting on the growing sentiment in favor of unemployment insurance among trade union organizations, Mr. McCoy adds:

> **"Be that as it may, the fact remains that unemployment insurance is no cure for unemployment. It will be time enough to be sure that when it comes to employers choosing between unemployment insurance, a palliative, on the one hand, and the payment of a living wage and the forty-hour week, or less hours, a cure, on the other hand, they unhesitatingly will choose unemployment insurance."**

Mr. McCoy is correct when he says that unemployment insurance is not a cure for unemployment. The benefits which the jobless workers receive in countries with unemployment insurance are not sufficient to provide a decent living. They are barely sufficient to keep starvation away.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has declared in favor of unemployment insurance. At the same time the Federation is mobilizing the strength of organized labor and other progressive forces in favor of reducing the length of the work week and work day to whatever extent may be necessary to provide jobs for all. The establishment of this policy is the real need for unemployment insurance would end.

American labor looks on unemployment insurance as a necessary temporary expedient to be used until the employers become sensible enough to adopt labor's slogan of a job for every worker. Unless this is done, and speedily, misery for labor in the United States will be a permanent condition.

Unemployed workers living on charity rations are deprived of all real freedom. The freedom of the workers under the benefits meted out by the most favorable unemployment insurance schemes now in existence is a little larger than that imposed by charity standards and has the added advantage of being a legal right with the feeling of self-respect which goes with that status.

But the only real freedom for the workers will come when the right to work is so firmly established that it cannot be taken away from any person by any individual or agency.

Self-Liquidating Relief Projects

The Emergency Relief and Construction Law enacted by the recent session of Congress authorizes the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to loan $1,500,000,000 for self-liquidating projects.

"Self-liquidating" projects are public or semi-public undertakings whose construction costs are to be met out of the receipts derived by charges for use instead of by taxation.

There is practically no limit to the public works which States and lesser political subdivisions may construct either in whole or in part by these loans. They run all the way from canals to municipal waterworks and even municipal light and power plants. The only limitation is that they must be such that current administration costs and reduce at stated intervals the construction costs by service charges. Loans will not be made for public projects whose costs are ultimately to be recovered by taxation.

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is also authorized to make loans to municipalities and other political subdivisions of States devoted to public uses. These projects include bridges, tunnels, docks, viaducts, waterworks, canals, markets and other projects which must also be self-liquidating.

Loans may also be made to private limited-dividend housing corporations for the construction of low-cost housing and slum rehabilitation, and also to limited-dividend corporations formed to aid in the work of developing new or renewable natural resources.

It is claimed by some that the law authorizes loans for highway construction where the cost and upkeep are paid for by tolls collected in the form of gasoline taxes. The Corporation has not yet decided this question.

Authorities estimate that from three to five billion dollars worth of planned construction works eligible for loans from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation have been postponed because of the unwillingness of State and local authorities to use State and local funds for their construction work. The way is now open for these works to go forward through the assistance of the Corporation.

In the interests of finding work for the jobless, labor organizations should use their influence to have State and municipal officials exercise to the limit the borrowing power authorized by Congress for the construction of public works which will ultimately pay for themselves by charges made for their use.

Thirty Hours on Federal-Aid Highways

Secretary of Agriculture Arthur M. Hyde has allocated to the various States the $120,000,000 appropriated by Congress for the construction of Federal-aid highways during the fiscal year ending July 1, 1932. The amount is an emergency appropriation for the employment of jobless workers. The States accepting their allocation must add an equal amount either by taxation or loans.

Congress included in the law appropriating the $120,000,000 a number of protective provisions for the workers recommended by organized labor.

The 30-hour week is mandatory for all employes on the projects except those holding executive, administrative, and supervisory positions.

The direct employment of convict labor is prohibited.

State highway departments or other State agencies administering the funds are required to determine minimum rates of wages for skilled and unskilled labor prevailing in the locality advertising for bids and the wage scales must be included in bids for the work.

Preference for jobs must be given to ex-service men with dependents where they are qualified.

These labor provisions are a striking illustration of the assistance which Congress may give in fixing work standards.

In making appropriations, Congress has the right to include such general limitations as in its judgment the public interest demands.

It is organized labor's business to see to it that men and women are elected to both the Senate and the House of Representatives who are imbued with the patriotic idea that the interests of the laboring masses are always in the public interest.

With such a Congress, labor protective provisions in Federal statutes may be very effectively used to maintain and enlarge the living standards of all those who work.

It should also be pointed out that the labor protective provisions in the Federal-aid highway law may be included in State laws regulating State construction work and in municipal ordinances regulating municipal work.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYES AND CLASSIFICATION

By JOHN R. GLASS
President, American Federation of Government Employes

Editor's Note.—Mr. John R. Glass, president of the American Federation of Government Employes, chartered by the American Federation of Labor, made the following statement regarding the objects and purpose of the new organization:

The organization of the American Federation of Government Employes comes at a most conspicuous time.

The wrecking of carefully built plans of many years standing, by the passage of the so-called "Economy Bill," has caused widespread dissatisfaction and has greatly lowered the morale among all Government employes.

Our program will be:

First, to restore to Federal employees the pay and privileges taken from them by the enactment of the so-called "Economy Bill."

Second, to formulate a fair and equitable classification law, so that its benefits will extend to all Federal employes of the District of Columbia, but cover the entire field of service.

In this connection, we point out that we do not intend to disturb any condition of employment now existing between the numbers of the crafts organizations of the Government service, satisfactory to their satisfaction, and upon which boards the crafts have their own representation.

With further reference to classification, we point out that although the present law is on the statutes, its observance is more honored in the breach.

If any field employees have the idea that they constitute the highest class of employes in Washington with a protected status, they are mistaken. Improvement in conditions of employment and compensation therefore, they have an enduring responsibility which also should be removed at once.

Most of the departments and establishments in Washington, we are reliably informed, have practically abandoned policies which might have proven the classification law a benefit, and, instead, have helped hold up the long overdue promotions, or pay increases, for more than a year past.

We shall work in full harmony with the American Federation of Labor, as it has been proven, on many occasions, that any other policy on the part of Federal employes is suicidal.

In the next session of Congress we shall press for a liberalized retirement law. We are firmly convinced that we have assurances of Congressional leaders that there is a fair chance of our being successful in securing such retirement.

Our policy will be to attend strictly to our own affairs; carry out a constructive legislative program, and by diligence and application develop the power of organization will be enabled to pull Federal employes from the slough of despondency.

We have no doubt of our success and we extend a cordial invitation to all those who believe our program should be carried out, to join with us at once.

STRENGTH OF COMMUNISM IN CHINA IS INCREASING

30,000,000 People Under Red Regime —Not Connected with Russian Communism — Nationalist Government Unable to Suppress Communist Army.

Shanghai, China.—Russell Owen, special correspondent here of the New York Times, declares that the "growth of Communism in China seems likely to be the most important movement in the Far East decades in this storm-torn country and possibly one of its greatest hopes of unity."

Mr. Owen says the officials of the Nationalist Government "admit it cannot be settled by armies and that it is growing rapidly."

"Chinese Communism," Mr. Owen explained, "is not only its own governmental structure, in which it for the time being has set up administrations in each village, district and province in the central government through the Soviet system of distribution of land survey. The food was taken in bulk and among the peasants, and the low wages, hours, and although refugee camps maintained by the flood relief committee did much in relief, there was no danger resulting from the floods made the district a fertile field for Communistic propaganda."

Mr. Owen contends that military operations by the Nationalist Government against the Communists are futile. Last year General Chiang Kai-shek operated against them at a cost of $46,000,000. His troops suffered 100,000 casualties and one of administrative power and by with them guns, munitions and supplies.

up and the advance goes on. When they capture a town all land records are burned at once, so the land may be divided among the peasants.

"There are 30,000,000 Chinese at present under the Communist government. They run banks and mint their own money, which is at par in their territory. The food harvest in 1931 of 50,000,000 were driven from their

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYES MUST BE ORGANIZED

By JOHN ARTHUR SHAW
First Vice President and Chairman Organization Committee, American Federation of Government Employes

Editor's Note.— Mr. John Arthur Shaw, first vice president and chairman of the Organization Committee of the American Federation of Government Employes, chartered by the American Federation of Labor, made the following statement urging all Government employes to join the new organization:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employes, I wish to extend a warm invitation to every Federal employee, who has his own welfare and that of the Federal service at heart, to immediately join hands with us in affording the most powerful body of organized Federal employees yet known.

We know that conditions necessitate a broad and comprehensive plan of mutual aid. Prominent policies will get anywhere.

We cannot expect to sit down, with folded hands, bemoaning our fate, doing nothing actively to get back what we have lost. Activity, instead, create a virile, powerful organization, intelligently led and imbued with the spirit of fairness and democracy—to fight our battles for us.

We have already had a sample of what may be meted out to those in the Federal service, when Congress runs ruthlessly and cuts and removes the privileges, justly earned, and of many years standing.

We know that the national publicity attendant to the passage of the so-called Economy Bill has done more to hurt Federal employees, throughout the country, than anything which has happened within the past fifteen years.

The public has been misled, thereby, a conception of Federal employees as a petted, pampered group of fat-salaried bureaucrats, mostly surrounded by hungry and destitute tax-paying citizens.

Nothing could be further from the truth, as we all know, but, still, the damage is done, and it behooves us, to our detriment, must and shall be removed.

We owe it to ourselves, and our country, to further the merit system in Government service, to the best of our ability we shall carry out this program.

District of Columbia Idle Swamp Relief Fund Managers

Washington.—The welfare committee charged with administering the $250,000 relief fund appropriated by Congress for the District of Columbia was ordered to begin receiving applications for help during the first week of the committee's existence. When the relief machinery operated at the beginning of the second week, more than 1,000 needy persons were lined up demanding assistance.

Mr. Owen contends that military operations by the Nationalist Government against the Communists are futile. Last year General Chiang Kai-shek operated against them at a cost of $46,000,000. His troops suffered 100,000 casualties and one of administrative power and by with them guns, munitions and supplies.

A. F. of L. Grants Charter To American Federation of Government Employes

David R. Glass Is President of New Organization, Which Starts with Thirty Lodges — Jurisdiction of A. F. of L. Affiliates Protected—First Convention Will Be Held in October.

Washington.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor has granted a charter to the American Federation of Government Employees, a new organization of Federal workers.

By this action the council enables thousands of Government employees to regain their status as members of the Iona fide organized labor movement of which they were deprived by the ill-considered action of the officials of the National Association of Federal Employes in forcing a hastily-conceived, referendum vote last winter on withdrawal from the American Federation of Labor.

For a number of years the officials of the National Federation of Federal Employes had persistently invaded the jurisdiction of a number of national and international unions, many of whose members were Government employes, affiliated with the A. F. of L. This interference, in violation of the laws of the American Federation of Labor, culminated in the hasty referendum resulting in the withdrawal.

To protect the members of its own affiliates and enable the thousands of Government employees to again become connected with the bona fide labor movement, the executive council granted the charter to the new organization.

Officials Chosen

The officials of the new union are:

David R. Glass, president; John R. Newman, secretary; Clark J. McLane, treasurer; John Arthur Shaw, first vice president; Mrs. Sophie J. Bergner, second vice president; Arthur M. Berggren, third vice president; Miss Ines Cook, fourth vice president; Walter C. Cónroy, fifth vice president; Thomas J. Jackson, sixth vice president; George W. Jeffrey, seventh vice president; and George Kearney, eighth vice president.

The officers will serve until October 10, when the first national convention will be held.

Committee Chairmen

The following committees were named chairmen of committees:

John Arthur Shaw, organization; R. Claude Hamilton, publicity; Miss B. McEvoy, rules and order of business; W. R. Brown, resolutions; William B. Douglas, report of executive council; Victor Marvin, laws; Elmer H. Bailey, union label; C. W. Hamilton, entertainment; William J. Ryan, local and other affiliation; Miss Sophie Weber, credentials; Miss Sophie Weber, elections; P. A. Strachan, publicity; H. A. McConnaughey, auditing; and Harry Kennery, civic affiliates.

Thirty-seven Lodges

When the charter was granted the new organization consisted of thirty-seven lodges, of which eighteen are located in the District of Columbia and nine throughout the country.

Locals in the District of Columbia include Government Printing Office Employes, Public Buildings and Parks, Weather Bureau, Bureau of Standards, Navy Department, Post Office Department, Labor Department, War Department, Interior Department, Veterans' Administration, Federal Society of Translators, World War Veterans, Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Tariff Commission, Civil Service Commission, Regional Office of Veterans' Administration, Department of Justice, St. Elizabeth's Hospital, and the Treasury Department.

Lodges outside of the District of Columbia include the Deputy Internal Revenue Collectors of New York City, Philadelphia Navy Yard, Norfolk Navy Yard, New York City Department of Labor, and general locals in Boston, Mass., and St. Louis, Mo.

It was announced that lodges were also being organized in Indianapolis, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Panama Canal Zone, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Norfolk and Hampton, Va.; Columbus, Ohio; Portland, Ore.; Portland, Me.; Galveston, Texas; Seattle, Wash., and Atlanta, Ga.

Locals are being formed generally throughout the Nation, the insular possessions and foreign countries was exhaustively discussed. The executive council expressed the belief that around one hundred locals would be organized by the time the October convention meets.

Ohio Wage Rate Law Upheld

One by one State wage rate laws for public work are being upheld by the courts.

In Ohio the law prescribes that public officials shall fix in advance of letting contracts the rate of wages to be paid.

The commissioners of Franklin county fixed 60 cents an hour as the minimum wage rate on certain roads to have prevailing wage rate laws and minimum wage rate laws invalidated. They should patriotically recognize that the people acting collectively through local and State governments in the Federal Government have not only the legal right but the duty to provide and protect high living standards for all those employed on public works. This is necessary in order to promote the general welfare, one of the objects which the Constitution of the United States was established to secure.

High living standards for those who work is the financial basis of American institutions. Contractors and others who seek to lower these living standards are undesirable citizens in the most opprobrious sense of that term.

Foolish Economy

The economy fanatics in the last session of the New Jersey Legislature refused to make an appropriation of the modest amount required to compile and publish the Monthly Bulletin of the New Jersey Department of Labor. Consequently the publication was discontinued with the June, 1932, issue.

The discontinuance of the Industrial Bulletin is to be regretted. It was the only publication giving statistics of the work done by the Department of Labor and the following bureaus: Workmen's Compensation Bureau, Bureau of Children's Guardians, Bureau of Statistics and Research, Bureau of Industries and Immigration, Bureau of Electrical and Mechanical Equipment, Bureau of Hygiene, Sanitation and Mine Inspection, and Bureaus of General and Structural Inspection and Employment.

Labor bureaus were set up in all the States through the influence of organized labor. They are of great value in protecting the interests of working men and women. Instead of being limited by pickayune appropriations their functions should be extended by increased financial support.

The Industrial Bulletin will be missed by those who desire to keep informed regarding the administration of protective labor laws in New Jersey. It is to be hoped the next Legislature will realize its error and make whatever appropriation may be required to permit Col. Charles R. Blunt, Commissioner of Labor, to resume its publication.

RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN FEDERAL SERVICE

By SOPHIE J. BERGNER
Second Vice President, American Federation of Government Employes

Editor's Note.—Mrs. Sophie J. Bergner, second vice president of the American Federation of Government Employes, made the following statement on the constitutional rights which women in Federal service will secure from membership in the Federation:

I am sure that the Federation will enlist the active support of every intelligent woman in the Federal service.

For many years unfair discrimination has been practiced, both in governmental and private industry which the women have not been able to combat because there can be no question but that such discrimination is unjust and unfair and fatal to the best interests of the service.

The recent, restrictions placed upon married women in Federal service, I am thoroughly opposed by the American Federation, of Government Employes and, through the medium of our affiliations, we will carry the battle into every part of the country and bring the united power of woman's organizations everywhere to bear upon the question.

We feel that women should come forward and take an active part in the affairs of our Federation and Locals as they compose a very considerable portion of those in the Government service, and we assure them of our hearty cooperation and support in any and all measures designed to improve conditions in Government employment.

We know that only through active participation in this movement will women be enabled to help themselves and others around them, as well as learning at first-hand the problems which must be confronted and the consequent development of the best means by which to meet them.